checked, and that in some cases they had even been reduced. Meat prices had fallen 15 to 20 per cent, in the last few months.

In December, 1917, the growth of food queues outside the shops in London and some provincial centres led to a further Order by the *Measures to* Food Controller to ensure fair distribution *stop food queues* 3JI& thus to prevent queues. Under the Order, local Food Committees could prohibit the sale of any specified food article except by a licensed or registered retailer ; require him only to sell it to customers registered with him for the purpose, and only in quantities within limits laid down by the Committees. And they further had power to prevent any one retailer from taking more registered customers than he could conveniently serve without driving them into queues ; to transfer supplies from one retailer to another ; and to prescribe manner and time of sale.

With 1st January, 1918, a compulsory meatless day was enforced, and on one day a week no meat, cooked or uncooked, might be sold.

Individual Organised Labour, which had hitherto "decSipon been opposed to compulsory rationing, declared itself at the end of December, 1917, in favour of it as an alternative to food queues, and in January, Mr. Clynes, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Food Ministry, announced that

extensive rationing would before long be put into force. A scheme for this had been fully worked out months before by Sir Alfred Butt and a special Rationing Committee under Lord Devonport, before the latter resigned, from the Food Ministry. On 25th February, 1918, a system of rationing meat, butter and margarine was put into force in London